

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for upgrading a database, comprising:
  - updating a message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through intermediate versions, wherein updating comprises:
    - receiving an update message having a first version format; and
    - repeatedly generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the update message until a final update message having an upgraded version format is generated.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format includes:
  - receiving a first update message; and
  - calling a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the update message includes a set of records for a database in the first version.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the set of records for the database in the first version is a complete set of records for the database.
5. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer readable storage medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed by a computer~~data processing system~~, cause[[s]] the computer~~data-processing system~~ to perform a method, comprising:

receiving an update message having a first version format; and

generating repeatedly a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the update message until a final update message having an upgraded version format is generated.

6. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 5, the method further comprising:

receiving a first update message; and

calling a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message.

7. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 5, wherein the update message includes a set of records for a database in the first version.

8. (Previously Presented) The article of manufacture of claim 7, wherein the set of records for the database in the first version is a complete set of records for the database.

9. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for updating a message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through intermediate versions comprising:

means for receiving an update message having a first version format; and

means for repeatedly generating a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the update message until a final update message having an upgraded version format is generated.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
  - means for receiving a first update message; and
  - means for calling a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message.
11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the update message includes a set of records for a database in the first version.
12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the set of records for the database in the first version is a complete set of records for the database.
13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for upgrading a database, comprising:
  - a network switching device to receive an update message having a first version format; and[  
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    - a controller card to update a message from a first version to an upgraded version by chaining through intermediate versions, the controller card to repeatedly generate a revised update message having a next most recent version format based on the update message until a final update message having an upgraded version format is generated.

14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the network switching device receives a first update message.
15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:  
a mapper to call a next most recent version mapping function to map contents of the first update message to generate a second update message.
16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the update message includes a set of records for a database in the first version.
17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the set of records for the database in the first version is a complete set of records for the database.